
Press Release

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SCAG lauds Air Resources Board for leadership, urges continued regional partnership to meet climate goals

LOS ANGELES – The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) on Thursday praised the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for adopting ambitious and achievable climate targets, hailing the vote as a win for regional collaboration and long-term sustainability in the state.

Since Senate Bill 375 was passed in 2009, CARB has set and periodically updated targets at both the state and regional level for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CARB has been working on an update to the target for the past year and, after a long collaborative process with state and regional leaders, has chosen an ambitious and achievable target for Southern California's emission reduction.

In early October, CARB staff put forth a proposal for an aggressive new target that SCAG, having conducted rigorous internal testing and modeling, could not see a path forward to meeting. After engaging with regional environmental stakeholders and considering robust scientific analysis from SCAG and other metropolitan planning organizations, CARB adopted a revised climate target that is definitively ambitious and supported by viable strategies.

The new target requires the SCAG region (which includes the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura) to make a 19 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per capita by the year 2035 – an ambitious goal, up from a previous target of 13 percent. At the community level, this means considerably reducing per capita vehicle miles traveled.

"We are grateful to the Air Resources Board for leading a collaborative process," said Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director of SCAG. "Partnership like this is essential to meeting climate goals and making Southern California a leading example for the rest of the world."

Margaret Finlay, President of SCAG and City Councilmember for Duarte, expressed confidence in the region's prospects. "Southern California will have to keep pushing the envelope on sustainability. With ambitious new strategies and continuous investment in improving transportation alternatives, we are well-positioned for success."

SCAG will continue to convene business communities, environmental groups and regional experts to develop a wide range of strategies for reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions, including better integration of land use development and public transportation, greater use of active transportation and better transportation demand management with new technology.

SCAG's 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, a blueprint for Southern California's long-term transportation and land use planning, will identify a path to meeting the adopted targets.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG, please visit: www.scag.ca.gov.